

810-3-39-.08 Requirements for the Alabama Electronic Corporate Income Tax Return.

(1) SCOPE – To define the requirements for an Alabama electronic corporate income tax return filed through the Alabama Business Modernized E-File program and when this electronic return is considered to be timely filed for accepted and rejected returns. This rule also defines certain terms used in connection with this program.

(2) Definitions

(a) XML Schema – A single file or collection of files that describe the structure of an XML instance document along with rules for data content and semantics such as what fields an element can contain, which sub elements it can contain and how many items can be present. It can also describe the type and values that can be placed into each element or attribute.

(b) XML instance document – The actual return data defined by the XML Schema. This document is validated against the XML schema to ensure the contents and structures are correct.

(c) Business Rules – A document that defines the criteria that needs to be met for an electronic return to be accepted based on the filing instructions and system requirements for a specific tax return.

(d) Corporate Income Tax – The tax levied by Section 40-18-2, 40-18-31 and 40-18-39, Code of Alabama 1975.

(e) Software Developer - A firm, organization or individual that develops software for formatting electronic tax return information according to Alabama schemas, business rules and specifications and/or transmits electronic returns directly to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

(f) Electronic Return Originator (ERO) - A firm, organization or individual that deals directly with the taxpayer, prepares tax returns for electronic filing or collects prepared tax returns to electronically file the returns. Because the electronic filing process is a joint program between the IRS and the Alabama Department of Revenue, an ERO must be approved by the Internal Revenue Service to qualify for this program.

(g) AL8453-C - A document used to satisfy signature requirements for electronically filed C-Corporation income tax returns submitted to the State of Alabama by an Electronic Return Originator (ERO).

(h) AL8453-PTE - A document used to satisfy signature requirements for electronically filed S-Corporation/Partnership/LLC income tax returns submitted to the State of Alabama by an Electronic Return Originator (ERO).

(i) Accepted return – An Alabama Corporate electronic income tax return that has successfully completed the schema and business rules validation process and the

Department has sent an acknowledgement with an Acceptance Status of “Accepted” for MeF (Modernized e-File) returns.

(j) Rejected Return – An Alabama Corporate electronic income tax return that was received but failed to complete the schema and or business rule validation process and the Department has sent an acknowledgement with an Acceptance Status of “Rejected” for MeF returns.

(k) Transmission Perfection Period – A ten (10) calendar day period from the date of the first transmission of a Corporate MeF (Modernized E-file) income tax return that a taxpayer has to correct and resubmit a rejected electronically transmitted Corporate MeF income tax return that was originally timely filed.

(l) Transmission Date – A record of the date and time (in a particular time zone) that an authorized electronic return transmitter receives the transmission of a taxpayer’s electronically filed document on its host system. However, if the taxpayer and the electronic return transmitter are located in different time zones, it is the taxpayer’s time zone that controls the timeliness of the electronically filed document.

(m) Timely Filed return – An electronic return that is received and accepted by the due date or within the six-month automatic extension period. It also includes a timely filed rejected return that is resubmitted and accepted during the transmission perfection period.

(3) A complete Alabama electronic corporate income tax return will consist of XML data transmitted electronically and supporting binary documents (such as .pdf documents) as required by the Alabama Corporate Modernized Electronic Filing (MeF) schemas, business rules, and Alabama Business MeF Software Developers and Transmitters Guidelines (Publication 4164). A complete Alabama electronic return must contain the same information as a comparable Alabama corporate income tax return as if filed entirely on paper.

(4) Corporations that electronically file their Alabama corporate income tax return must also pay their tax liability electronically.

(5) S-Corporations that electronically file their Alabama S-Corporate income tax return must also pay their tax liability electronically on the Form PTEC (Nonresident Composite Payment Return) if applicable.

(6) The transmission date of an accepted Alabama electronic corporate income tax return will be used to determine timely filing of an electronic return in the same manner that the postmarked date is used to determine timely filing of a paper Alabama corporate income tax return.

(7) If a timely filed electronic return is rejected, the filer has the later of 10 calendar days from the date of the first transmission or the due date of the return (with

extensions) to correct the errors and resubmit the return. In order for the ADOR to acknowledge the transmission date of the original return, the submission ID of the original return must be transmitted in each subsequent filing. If the return is resubmitted and accepted after the due date (with extensions) or the transmission perfection period, the received date will be the transmission date of the accepted resubmitted (perfected) return and not the date that the original rejected return was submitted.

(a) Perfection of a return for electronic re-transmission is generally required when the original timely filed electronic return had errors in the XML format, or errors that caused the return to fail Alabama Corporate MeF schema validation and or business rules. Therefore, the transmission perfection period is not an extension of time to file; it is a period of time to correct errors in the electronic file.

(b) If a filer is unable to correct a rejected Alabama Corporate electronic return to an accepted status, the filer must submit their paper return with a copy of the last rejection notification from ADOR. To be considered timely filed, this paper return must be postmarked by the later of the due date of the return (including extensions) or 10 calendar days after the date that Alabama last gives notification that the return was rejected. If the return is received after the due date or the transmission perfection period, the received date will be the transmission date of the return.

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